economic viability of agriculture. It seeks to dovetail the agricultural development and research programmes to meet the challenges in Indian agriculture and addresses to the problems of under-employment, unemployment and malnutrition by generating activities through diversification of agriculture and promotion of agro-based industries.

(c) and (d) The fragmented agricultural holdings stand in the way of rationalisation of agriculture and adequate investment of capital and inputs. There are provisions in the laws of several States for prevention of fragmentation of holding. There is no proposal at present to make any changes in the existing laws on land ceiling.

(e) There are 5296 joint farming societies (as on 30-6-1986) out of which 2152 societies are dormant and 522 societies are in profit.

Shortage of Feed and Fodder for Livestock and Poultry

1580. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a major shortage of feed and fodder for the country's livestock and poultry;

(b) if so, what are the deficiency rates for dry fodder, green fodder and concentrates;

(c) whether Government consider this as a critical situation; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to contain this predicament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various estimates made in this respect are as under :

1. The Committee on Livestock Feed & Fodder, Ministry of Agriculture estimated in 1974 the shortage of dry fodder, green fodder and concentrates for projected population for 1978-79 as 52.94, 126.56 and 6.13 million tonnes respectively.

2. On the basis of average rate of feeding for different categories of livestock, the National Commission on Agriculture estimated in 1973 for projected livestock population in 2000, shortage of dry fodder, green fodder and concentrates as 16.20, 19.80 and 5.75 million tonnes respectively.

3. The Committee on Fodder and Grasses constituted by National Wasteland Development Board estimated during 1985 shortage of dry fodder and green fodder as 339 and 682 million tonnes respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Various steps taken by the Government include :

1. To organise seed production programme, demonstration programmes of improved fodder varieties and education of the farmers by organising short duration training programmes at the seven Regional Stations for Forage Production & Demonstration established in different parts of the country.

2. To organise seed production programme of newly developed varieties of fodder crops at the Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Hesserghatta so that quality seed could be made available to the farmers for harvesting maximum fodder from their plots.

3. To continue distribution of seeds of latest varieties of fodder crops suitable to different agroclimatic zones under Central Minikit Programme to enable the beneficiaries to grow the same in their land which would convince them in adopting the latest varieties for harvesting maximum fodder yield.

4. Central Govt.'s assistance to the State Govts. is being provided to strengthen their fodder seed farms for production of foundation and certified seed of suitable varieties of fodder crops to improve the availability of quality seeds for the use of farmers.

5. To organise seed production of fodder crops through registered growers for making available quality seed of fodder crops in sufficient quantity for cultivation of fodder by the farmers.
6. To organise demonstrations for enrichment of straws and callulosic waste for better utilisation of the nutrients available which otherwise are not utilised by the bovines for production.
7. To encourage silvi-pasture programme on the farmers' waste/uncultivable land and common lands in the villages to get fodder under rainfed conditions form such lands where nothing could be produced earlier.
8. To improve the existing grasslands and grazing lands in suitable areas available mostly with the Deptt. of Forest for Fodder production which would be used for grazing by the livestock and the surplus could be conserved for use in the lean season.

Fall in Foodgrain Production

1581. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains production for 1993-94 is likely to be less than the all-time high last year;

(b) if so, how much less production will be there in each commodity alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is going to happen the same way in the commercial crops also; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor commodity-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to the present assessment, the production of foodgrains during 1993-94 is expected to be close to the last year's record level.

(b) The table below gives the production of various foodgrain crops for 1993-94 (Likely) as compared to 1992-93 :

(Million tonnes)

	1993-94 (Likely)	1992-93 (Final)
Rice	74.00	72.61
Wheat	56.90	56.76
Coarse cereals	33.70	37.04
Pulses	14.50	13.60
TOTAL :	179.10	180.01

The reasons for less production of coarse cereals this year is mainly attributed to long dry spells from August to mid-September 1993 in major millets growing States of Rajathan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat etc.

(c) and (d) The production prospects of most of the commercial crops for 1993-94 are as good as last year's level or even better except for groundnut and cotton. The reasons for decline in production of cotton and groundnut this year are attributed to long dry spells during August and mid-September, 1993 in Gujarat and pests (Heliothis) attack on cotton in Punjab.

Number of Scarcity Hit Village

1582. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Gujarat, Rajasthan and other states declared scarcity hit this year, and the total population of these villages, state-wise; and

(b) what Central aid has been sought and given for relief to these scarcity hit areas and what is the Central Government's response thereto ?